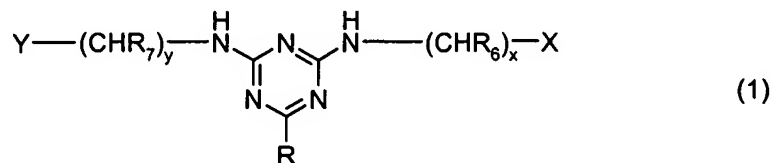


1. (original): A method of increasing the depth of shade of dyed natural or synthetic polyamide fibre materials, which comprises treating the fibre material before, during or after dyeing with a liquor comprising a compound of formula (1)



wherein R is halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>aryl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>aralkyl, -OR<sub>1</sub> or -NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> being, each independently of the other, hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, amino, mercapto, carboxyl, sulfo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkylsulfonyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>arylsulfonyl or C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>aralkylsulfonyl groups, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>aryl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, amino, carboxyl, sulfo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkylsulfonyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>arylsulfonyl or C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>aralkylsulfonyl groups, or C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>aralkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, amino, carboxyl, sulfo, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkylsulfonyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>arylsulfonyl or C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>36</sub>aralkylsulfonyl groups,

X and Y are, each independently of the other, mercapto, -NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub> or -N<sup>+</sup>R<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub>R<sub>5</sub> A<sup>-</sup>, wherein R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are, each independently of the others, hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl and A<sup>-</sup> is chloride, bromide, iodide, sulfate or methylsulfate,

R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are, each independently of the other, hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl,

and x and y are, each independently of the other, a number from 2 to 12.

2. (original): A method according to claim 1, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein x and y are the same.

3. (currently amended): A method according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 2~~, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein x and y are 3, 4 or 6.

4. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein X and Y are the same.

5. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which comprises using a compound of formula (1) wherein R is a group of formula -NH-(CHR<sub>8</sub>)<sub>z</sub>-Z wherein R<sub>8</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl, Z is hydroxy, mercapto or amino, and z is a number from 2 to 12.

6. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (1) is present in the liquor in an amount of from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the weight of the polyamide fibre material.

7. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the fibre material is treated before the dyeing.

8. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the treatment with the liquor comprising the compound of formula (1) is carried out at a temperature of from 20 to 130°C.

9. (original): A method according to claim 7, wherein the pretreatment is carried out at a pH of from 7 to 13.

10. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the treatment with the liquor comprising the compound of formula (1) is carried out in accordance with the exhaust process.

11. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the polyamide fibre material is in the form of microfibres.

12. (original): A textile adjuvant comprising an aqueous solution of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1.